

MINUTES OF THE UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS MEETING, 7 JUNE 2008

Call to Order: The regular business meeting of the Unified Arizona Veterans was called to order by Chair Gary Fredricks at 10:00 a.m. with proper ceremonies. The roll was called and a quorum was established. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as written by a motion from Judith Hatch, seconded and carried.

Communications and Correspondence: Vice Chair Mel Brody presented a request letter dated 5/23/08 received from the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund. \$52 million is still needed to construct a replacement Pearl Harbor Memorial Museum and Visitor Center.

Due to the excused absence of Treasurer Donna Adams, there was no Treasurer's report.

Sickness and Distress: Bo Bohach, Chaplain
Bill Krause and Bob Delker continue to get well. Al Paulson continues to deal with cancer. Two Navajo Code Talkers have recently passed.

Guest Speaker - Mark Liddel, Executive Director, Murray Grey Foundation

Mr. Liddel briefed that the Murray Grey Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization which provides financial support to America's military families. The Foundation is helping the nation's dire mortgage foreclosure situation by stopping foreclosures on veterans' homes. They welcome donations. Mr. Liddel provided:
Website: www.themurraygreyfoundation.org
Telephone 602.246.5457

REPORTS

1. UAV Board of Directors meeting held 7 June 08 - Chairman Fredricks briefed that

a) the Board had preliminary discussions on alternatives for improving financial recordkeeping and reporting, b) the 2008 AZ Veterans Hall of Fame Executive Selection Committee Operating

Instructions were approved, c) IRS tax status 501(c)(4) was discussed as possible appropriate future tax status for UAV, and d) the first meeting of the 2008 AVHOF Executive Selection Committee is scheduled for 6/11/08. Over 30 Class of 2008 Nomination packages have been received.

2. AZ Dept of Veterans Services - AZDVS Director Gregg Maxon briefed a) Memorial Day Remembrance program at the National Memorial Cemetery on N. Cave Creek Road was well attended, after which Gov Napolitano visited the

residents at the AZ State Veterans Home;

b) that if we see the Vets Home flag at half staff, it means that a resident has passed, c) the recent unfortunate incident involving a former Vets Home resident: a male veteran had fallen and had surgery in January 2008, and was admitted to the Home in March for rehab. The doctor approved the resident's discharge to home. A Vets Home social worker was assigned responsibility for ensuring that the discharged veteran's home health care was set up. The home health care was not set up; also no meds were sent home with the discharged veteran. It was the Vets Home who contacted Adult Protective Services to check on the veteran. The social worker was fired; d) there is a current freeze on the AZDVS Donation Fund due to a State audit, and awaiting a legal opinion.

The purpose of the Donation Fund is to honor veterans. Funds donated to the Donation Fund become public dollars, and must follow the same guidelines for appropriated funds. \$30,000 was donated to the new carillon at the National Memorial Cemetery, N. Cave Creek Road, e) this week is the Veterans Business Seminar, 11-12 June at the Radisson Hotel at Fort McDowell Casino, the seminar is for veterans who are business owners and veterans who want to start a business, 120 people have signed up, cost is \$100, f) the Military Family Relief Fund Commission is in place and recently responded positively to two requests for financial assistance from a veteran and a veteran's family, f) Homeless Front - the AZDVS has partnered with US Vets and looking into using some of the Donation Fund as a guarantee fund for 1st and 2nd months rent to assist homeless veterans, , g) Bill Heard Chevrolet will soon have a special pricing program for servicemen and servicewomen, and will also fund the veteran's license plate. DD-214 or American Legion membership card will serve as proof of veteran's status.

Dave Hampton, AZDVS Public Affairs Officer/Legislative Liaison, briefed a) SB1169, Military Family Relief Fund, the bill assists AZ families (primarily spouses and parents of wounded soldiers). The law is in place, but is being amended. The amended bill has passed the Senate, but is experiencing a delay getting to a final vote in the House, and b) the Enduring Freedom Memorial extension is "stuck" right now. The enabling legislation prohibits public funds and also fundraising by the State. The legislation states fund distribution "at the discretion of the Director."

3. UAV LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Linda Fulkerson briefed that the AZ Veterans Advisory Commission will send a letter to the Legislature regarding SB1169. Linda recommended that the UAV also send a letter to the Legislature. George Cushing made the motion which was seconded by Judy Hatch. Chair Fredricks to take for action.

4. NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY - Wayne Ellis, Director
Wayne thanked all who worked on the Memorial Day Remembrance at the National

Memorial Cemetery.

5. UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS

A. Chair Fredricks installed Carol Culbertson as UAV Secretary and Bo Bohach as a Director

(at the 3 May UAV Meeting including installation of new officers, Carol was in Alaska, and Bo was in Hawaii). Chair Fredricks also announced the appointment of Bo Bohach as UAV Chaplain and UAV Sergeant-at-Arms.

2. November 2008 Outreach (Veterans Organizations) - Carol Culbertson has volunteered

to serve as Coordinator of an Outreach project scheduled for November 2008, the month of Veterans Day. This will be an opportunity to let people in the valley know of the positive activities being sponsored by veterans' organizations. Some veterans' organizations will likely be sponsoring activities for their communities in November. Other veterans' organizations are encouraged to participate. Dave Hampton agreed to serve as a resource to this Outreach effort.

Carol was asked to develop an Information Collection Form to be completed and submitted

by participating veterans' organizations, form is attached.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mike Clemenson thanked Dave Hampton for his Legislative Updates.

B. Mike Clemenson observed that several UAV members represent more than one veterans organization and he asked if we could involve more representatives by encouraging "one organization, one representative." Action taken: Referred to the UAV Board of Directors.

C. Mike Clemenson made a motion to donate \$100 to the Murray Grey Foundation, Dick Collis seconded the motion. Vice Chair Brody made a motion to table the issue, in order to check the UAV Bylaws. Action taken: Referred to the UAV Board of Directors.

D. UAV Wreath - Jesse Gersten moved that UAV fund a wreath for presentation at ceremonies such as Memorial Day. Motion was seconded by Mel Brody. Discussion resulted in the sum of \$100 or less to assemble the wreath. Motion carried. Judy Hatch's offer to coordinate the making of the wreath was accepted.

E. Renaming of I-17/Black Canyon Highway as "Arizona Vets Highway" - Bo Bohach briefed that there is an effort to rename I-17/Black Canyon Freeway as "Arizona Vets Highway." Dick Collis inquired as to who is maintaining the flagpole at McGuireville, AZ. Bo replied that the flagpole was approved by ADOT.

F. Guest Speakers at UAV Meetings - Chair Fredricks invited members to suggest guest speakers for UAV meetings, Dick Willis suggested inviting mayors of the different cities.

Sue Collier, VAMC, suggested Sharon Bowers to brief VISN 18 (Veterans Integrated Service Network 18, whose network service area includes Arizona, New Mexico, the western portion of Texas, as well as bordering counties in Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma).

7. GOOD OF THE ORDER

A. ID Cards can be obtained at 52nd St and McDowell, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Kathy Upchurch)

B. Assistance to veterans is available at the RAO Office, Luke AFB, 623.856.3923 (Mike Clemenson)

C. Friday, 4 July 2008 - Joan Sisco briefed that there will be no Veterans area at this year's City of Phoenix 4th of July Celebration. The theme of this year's Phoenix event will be Fire Safety.

D. Friday, 4th of July Celebration at Luke AFB (Mike Clemenson)

E. Friday, 25 July 2008 - Joan Sisco is coordinating a Phoenix Mercury basketball game event honoring WWII women veterans. Joan distributed publicity materials. Tickets are \$20, WWII women veterans are free. Point of contact for this event: Joan Sisco, Veterans First, jesforvets@cox.net

F. Saturday, 26 July 2008 - Cactus Waves of Mesa-Phoenix is sponsoring the WAVES 66th Birthday event at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center, ACC Bldg Basement Conference Room, 650 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. All veterans, families of veterans, and the public are invited. Lunch is \$15.00 prepaid. Flyers will be distributed soon. Point of contact for this event: Carol Culbertson, President, Cactus Waves, carolculbertson@earthlink.net, office/fax: 602.943.7834.

G. Saturday, 18 October 2008 - Save the date - U.S. Navy 233rd Birthday Ball, Tempe Mission Palms Hotel, 60 E. 5th St, Tempe 85281, 6 p.m. Reception, 7 p.m. Dinner and Dance.

Point of Contact: Carol Culbertson, 2008 Navy Birthday Ball Committee, carolculbertson@earthlink.net, office/fax 602.943.7834 .

8. CLOSING & ADJOURNMENT

A. Due to the 4th of July weekend, the next UAV meeting will be held on Saturday, 12 July 2008, 10 a.m. - Noon, AZ State Veterans Home.

B. Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bo Bohach.

C. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. with a closing salute to the flag.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Culbertson

Secretary

Office/fax 602.943.7834

Email: carolculbertson@earthlink.net

**UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS
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**INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS NOVEMBER
2008**

OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY

YOUR REPLY BY OCTOBER 15, 2008 IS REQUESTED!

Date: 12 July 2008

Hello Unified Arizona Veterans (UAV) Organizations!

**Is your veterans organization planning to do something positive in the area of
community service or community activity in November 2008?**

For example:

A sporting activity for kids - food coupons for the team after the game,

Talking to JROTC cadets at a nearby high school,

**Inviting the community to join in at a speaker program at your American Legion
clubhouse,**

Taking disadvantaged children to the Phoenix Zoo,

Delivering groceries to a nearby food bank or church, etc.

**Please submit your Community Activity Form no later than October 15, 2008 to
Carol Culbertson, UAV Secretary, at: fax 602.943.7834, or email:
carolculbertson@earthlink.net
or U.S. Mail to: Carol Culbertson, 12241 N.26th Way, Phoenix 85032.**

**Working with Public Affairs, AZ Dept of Veterans Services, we will publicize your
activity
to your community with a news release to print media, Thank You!**

Questions? please contact Carol Culbertson at 602.943.7834,

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY FORM for November 2008 Project

Name of Veterans Organization: _____

Veterans Organization's Mailing Address: _____

Vets Organization's Point of Contact: _____

His or her phone: _____

Email address if available: _____

**Our Community Activity will be (describe as completely as possible, who, what,
where,
why, how:**

Date of the Activity: November ___, 2008

Place of the Activity: _____

Point of Contact for the Community Activity:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

The above information will be used in the news release, Thank you!

Carol Culbertson

Secretary, UAV

Office/fax 602.943.7834

Email: carolculbertson@earthlink.net

**Send your Community Activity Form via U.S. Mail (Carol Culbertson,
12241 N. 26th Way, Phoenix 85032)**

**Fax: 602.943.7834 (following a brief message that you have reached 602.943.7834,
the fax then starts automatically)**

**Email: Send an email to: carolculbertson@earthlink.net if you'd like
to receive the Community Activity Form via email, then return the form
via email.**